Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting a data link user for a communication protocol, comprising:

at a data link provider, receiving from a data link user through an interface defined between the data link provider and the data link user, a first request to identify a medium access control type supported by the data link provider;

receiving at the data link provider from the data link user a second request to identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and

in response to said second request, enabling the data link user to parse a communication formatted according to the communication protocol and received at the data link user from the data link provider.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

in response to said first request, indicating to the data link user that the medium access control type is a type not registered with the interface.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said enabling comprises:

sending the data link user an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document describing a format of the communication protocol.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said enabling comprises:

sending the data link user a set of data describing a format of the communication protocol.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said enabling comprises:

making available to the data link user a set of processor executable instructions for parsing a communication formatted according to ~~format of~~ the communication

protocol.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of adapting a data link user for a communication protocol, the method comprising:

at a data link provider, receiving from a data link user through an interface defined between the data link provider and the data link user, a first request to identify a medium access control type supported by the data link provider;

receiving at the data link provider from the data link user a second request to identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and

in response to said second request, enabling the data link user to parse a communication formatted according to the communication protocol and received at the data link user from the data link provider.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting a data link user for ~~to~~ a communication protocol supported by a data link provider, comprising:

at the ~~a~~ data link user, through an interface defined between the data link user and a data link provider, requesting the data link provider to identify a medium access control type supported by the data link provider;

at the data link user, requesting the data link provider to identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and

at the data link user, receiving ~~a description of a format of the communication protocol~~ from the data link provider information enabling the data link user to parse a communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

receiving at the data link user, in response to said request to identify a medium access control type, an indication that said medium access control type is not one of a predetermined set of medium access control types registered with the interface.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said receiving comprises:

receiving an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document describing a ~~said~~ format of the communication protocol.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said receiving comprises:

receiving a set of data describing a ~~said~~ format of the communication protocol.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said receiving comprises:

receiving access to a set of processor executable instructions for parsing the ~~said~~ communication ~~protocol~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of adapting a data link user for ~~to~~ a communication protocol supported by a data link provider, the method comprising:

at the ~~a~~ data link user, through an interface defined between the data link user and a data link provider, requesting the data link provider to identify a medium access control type supported by the data link provider;

at the data link user, requesting the data link provider to identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and

at the data link user, receiving ~~a description of a format of the communication protocol~~ from the data link provider information enabling the data link user to parse a communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting a data link user for a communication protocol supported by a data link provider, wherein the data link user and data link provider communicate via an interface, comprising:

at the data link user, issuing a first request to the data link provider to identify a

medium access control type supported by the data link provider;

at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a first response comprising an indication that the medium access control type is unknown to the interface;

at the data link user, issuing a second request to the data link provider to identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider for the medium access control type; and

at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a second response enabling the data link user to parse a communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein:

said first request comprises the DLPI (Data Link Provider Interface) primitive DL_INFO_REQ; and

said first response comprises the DLPI primitive DL_INFO_ACK with the parameter dl_mac_type having the value DL_OTHER.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said second response comprises an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document describing a format of the communication protocol.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said second response comprises a set of data describing a format of the communication protocol.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said second response comprises a set of processor executable instructions for parsing a communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said second response comprises access to a set of processor executable instructions, on the data link provider, for parsing a communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of adapting a data link user for a communication protocol supported by a data link provider, wherein the data link user and data link provider communicate via an interface, the method comprising:

at the data link user, issuing a first request to the data link provider to identify a medium access control type supported by the data link provider;

at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a first response comprising an indication that the medium access control type is unknown to the interface;

at the data link user, issuing a second request to the data link provider to identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider for the medium access control type; and

at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a second response enabling the data link user to parse a communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for adapting a data link user for a communication protocol supported by data link user, comprising:

a data link provider configured to provide data link layer services;

a data link user configured to access said data link services; and

an extended implementation of DLPI (Data Link Provider Interface), in which:

said data link user is configured to request said data link provider to identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and

said data link provider is configured to offer said data link user, in response to said request, information ~~for parsing~~ enabling the data link user to parse a communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said data link provider comprises a device driver for a communication interface device.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said data link user comprises a snoop utility for parsing a communication received by said data link provider.

23. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said information offered by said data link provider comprises an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document describing a format of the communication protocol.

24. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said information offered by said data link provider comprises a set of data describing a format of the communication protocol.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein said information offered by said data link provider comprises a set of processor executable instructions for parsing a communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein said information offered by said data link provider enables said data link user to access, on said data link provider, a set of processor executable instructions for parsing a communication formatted according to the communication protocol.